Studies identified through database searching (n=420)

Full text articles screened for eligibility (n=68)

Studies for which IPD were sought (n=30)

Papers excluded on basis of title and abstract (n=337)

Excluded (n=38)
  - Publication date (n=5)
  - Control intervention (n=4)
  - Intervention (n=8)
  - Study population (n=7)
  - Study design (n=1)
  - Duplicate publications (n=13)

Eligible studies from whom IPD were not provided (n=23):
  - Data no longer available (n=9)
  - Difficult contact (n=4)
  - No contact (n=6)
  - Not interested (n=1)
  - Data rights sold (n=3)

Studies who provided IPD (n=7):
  - Comparison 1 (4 studies, 207 patients)
  - Comparison 2 (2 studies, 142 patients)
  - Comparison 3 (2 studies, n=191)

Figure 1